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June 18, 1952

TO - Mr. Nitze

FROM - John H. Ferguson

U.S. Military Assistance in connection with the Egyptian Problem

Mr. Stabler has asked that we try to find out from the Joint Chiefs what their views are with respect to the following two questions:

1. In the event the present Anglo-Egyptian negotiations are successful, the Egyptians will probably come to us for assistance in the form of facilities for training additional Egyptian forces and equiping those forces. In the original MEC proposals the sponsoring powers indicated that Egypt would receive such aid from the sponsors able to provide it. While the Egyptians still have substantial sterling assets, their financial position is deteriorating, largely because of the cotton situation. Whether the Egyptians have adequate sterling resources or not, they are still likely to expect some assistance from us, particularly if they come into the MEC.

The

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The question of what military assistance the U.S. would provide seems to be part of the general question of U.S. assistance over the next few years for Middle East defense.

2. If a Anglo-Egyptian negotiations break down and the British have to use strength to stay in Egypt, as they presently contemplate doing, they will probably ask for assistance from us as well as political support. What would be the attitude of our military authorities toward providing some assistance to the British? The assistance requested might take the form of military personnel to help in the handling of traffic in the Canal or it might involve the question of U.S. ground and naval forces.

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